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TAGS: [EAGR](#) [ECON](#) [ETRD](#) [KPAO](#) [OIIP](#) [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [WTO](#) [KU](#)

SUBJECT: GOK SUPPORTS U.S. WTO PROPOSAL IN PRINCIPLE,
WAITING FOR MORE DETAILS

REF: A. STATE 209236

[B](#). STATE 211956

[C](#). KUWAIT 4962

(SBU) On December 7, Econoff met with Economic Department Deputy Jarrah Al-Sabah at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to discuss Kuwait's position ahead of the WTO Hong Kong Ministerial December 13-18. Econoff delivered talking points from Refs A & B (previously delivered via diplomatic note), and discussed GOK's position on the U.S. agricultural proposal. Al-Sabah stated that the GOK supports the U.S. proposal in principle, agreeing with its aims to reduce tariffs and subsidies, and to alleviate poverty. However, Al-Sabah noted that the GOK expects that the details of the proposal may change during the Hong Kong negotiations, and prefers to wait and see exactly which changes take place before fully endorsing the proposal. In reference to Econoff's questions regarding U/S for Commerce's comment that the GOK is waiting for an "Arab Consensus" (Ref C), Al-Sabah said that he was unaware of any expectation that there would be such a consensus, noting that Kuwait's lack of an agricultural base makes it unlikely to reach full agreement with Arab countries with agricultural export industries.
LEBARON